MACA UPDATE

2014

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Northwest Territories Municipal and Community Affairs

INDEX

Introduction 1

Financial Projections and Information 2

New Programs, Services and Initiatives 8

- Federal Infrastructure Programs 8
- Changes to MACA as a Result of Devolution 8
- Children and Youth Resiliency Initiatives 8
- Community Funding Formula Review 9
- Accountability Framework for Communtiy Governments 9

Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives 10

- Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue 10
- Public Service Capacity Initiative 10
- Advancing Local Government Adminstrators Program 10

Policy and Legislation 12

- Repealed Legislation 12
- Civil Emergency Measures Act 12
- Fire Prevention Act 12
- Municipal ATTIP 12

Contacts 13

Introduction

Every fall, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) publishes and distributes the MACA Update to community governments. The purpose of the MACA Update is to provide community governments with an indication of the level of funding they can anticipate for the coming year. Please note that the funding projections included in this document are subject to approval by the Legislative Assembly.

The information contained in this document can be very useful for community governments, especially in those cases where the fiscal calendars of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the community government are different. Therefore, MACA strives to include as much information as possible to assist community governments with their planning.

The information provided in MACA Update also includes information on funding projections, new and existing programs, services and initiatives, and information on MACA policies and legislation that have recently been changed or are currently under review.

I hope that you find this year's MACA Update useful. If you have questions about the information included in this document, please contact your Regional Superintendent for more information.

Robert C. McLeod

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

Financial Projections and Information

MACA adheres to the provisions of the Community Government Funding Policy, an Executive Council policy, to allocate funding to community governments for operations and maintenance, water and sewer services, and community public infrastructure. Projected funding for community government in 2015-2016 is not considered final until formal approval has been received by the Legislative Assembly.

In addition to the funding described above, MACA also annually provides community governments with funding to support specific costs; refer to page 4 for projected 2015-2016 funding for the following purposes:

- **Mobile Equipment** – assists Designated First Nation Authorities with the purchase of mobile equipment.
- **Utility Funding** – assists Designated First Nation Authorities with the utility costs of the community public infrastructure in their community.
- **Seniors/Disabled Property Tax Rebate** – support for rebates to ratepayers who are senior citizens or disabled.
- **Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes** – provides a grant-in-lieu of property taxes for GNWT infrastructure located within cities, towns and villages.
- **Property Tax Grant Program** – provides a grant to most non-tax-based community government's equivalent to the amount of property taxes actually paid by residents in the prior taxation year.

In addition to the above programs, MACA also administers the Gas Tax Agreement (GTA) on behalf of the Government of Canada. Please refer to the GTA at www.maca.gov.nt.ca for additional information and details regarding the GTA.

Operations and Maintenance Funding[1]

Community	Approved 2014-2015	Proposed 2015-2016
Aklavik	1,568,000	1,605,000
Behchoko	1,973,000	1,934,000
Colville Lake	809,000	820,000
Deline	1,485,000	1,490,000
Dettah	539,000	541,000
Enterprise	818,000	828,000
Fort Good Hope	1,476,000	1,501,000
Fort Liard	1,255,000	1,277,000
Fort McPherson	1,538,000	1,545,000
Fort Providence	1,304,000	1,316,000
Fort Resolution	1,041,000	1,041,000
Fort Simpson	1,511,000	1,513,000
Fort Smith	1,764,000	1,815,000
Gameti	1,216,000	1,222,000
Hay River	1,938,000	2,024,000
Hay River Reserve	664,000	659,000
Inuvik	2,562,000	2,529,000
Jean Marie River	531,000	537,000
Kakisa	437,000	441,000
Lutselk'e	750,000	763,000
Nahanni Butte	565,000	577,000
Norman Wells	1,170,000	1,172,000
Paulatuk	1,655,000	1,681,000
Sachs Harbour	1,499,000	1,523,000
Trout Lake	573,000	578,000
Tsiigehtchic	1,391,000	1,441,000
Tuktoyaktuk	1,747,000	1,739,000
Tulita	1,674,000	1,670,000
Ulukhaktok	1,645,000	1,646,000
Wekweeti	1,025,000	1,040,000
Whati	1,534,000	1,544,000
Wrigley	605,000	637,000
Yellowknife	7,422,000	7,648,000
Total	**47,684,000**	**48,297,000**

Notes
(1) All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

Water and Sewer Services Funding[1][2]

Community	Approved 2014-2015	Proposed 2015-2016
Aklavik	617,000	617,000
Behchoko	1,066,000	1,143,000
Colville Lake	327,000	327,000
Deline	571,000	589,000
Dettah	233,000	233,000
Enterprise	198,000	199,000
Fort Good Hope	564,000	609,000
Fort Liard	627,000	651,000
Fort McPherson	841,000	905,000
Fort Providence	561,000	561,000
Fort Resolution	601,000	601,000
Fort Simpson	805,000	1,051,000
Fort Smith	352,000	432,000
Gameti	362,000	362,000
Hay River	511,000	854,000
Hay River Reserve	306,000	306,000
Inuvik	775,000	1,060,000
Jean Marie River	443,000	461,000
Kakisa	204,000	211,000
Lutselk'e	426,000	426,000
Nahanni Butte	434,000	464,000
Norman Wells	504,000	732,000
Paulatuk	351,000	351,000
Sachs Harbour	319,000	319,000
Trout Lake	400,000	400,000
Tsiigehtchic	417,000	417,000
Tuktoyaktuk	701,000	701,000
Tulita	573,000	573,000
Ulukhaktok	582,000	582,000
Wekweeti	301,000	301,000
Whati	579,000	610,000
Wrigley	383,000	408,000
Yellowknife	-	130,000
Total	**15,937,000**	**17,586,000**

Notes

(1) Actual amounts per community in 2014-2015 dependent on actual activity of communities.

(2) All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

Community Public Infrastructure Funding[1]

Community	Actual 2014-2015	Proposed 2015-2016
Aklavik	823,000	823,000
Behchoko	1,036,000	1,036,000
Colville Lake	675,000	675,000
Deline	809,000	809,000
Dettah	708,000	708,000
Enterprise	646,000	646,000
Fort Good Hope	805,000	805,000
Fort Liard	815,000	815,000
Fort McPherson	864,000	864,000
Fort Providence	866,000	866,000
Fort Resolution	799,000	799,000
Fort Simpson	943,000	943,000
Fort Smith	1,114,000	1,114,000
Gameti	735,000	735,000
Hay River	1,260,000	1,260,000
Hay River Reserve	736,000	736,000
Inuvik	1,231,000	1,231,000
Jean Marie River	640,000	640,000
Kakisa	620,000	620,000
Lutselk'e	768,000	768,000
Nahanni Butte	665,000	665,000
Norman Wells	869,000	869,000
Paulatuk	740,000	740,000
Sachs Harbour	668,000	668,000
Trout Lake	646,000	646,000
Tsiigehtchic	696,000	696,000
Tuktoyaktuk	899,000	899,000
Tulita	789,000	789,000
Ulukhaktok	772,000	772,000
Wekweeti	675,000	675,000
Whati	788,000	788,000
Wrigley	692,000	692,000
Yellowknife	2,210,000	2,210,000
Total	**28,002,000**	**28,002,000**

Notes

(1) All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

Proposed 2015-2016 "Other" Community Government Funding[1]

Community	Seniors/ Disabled Rebate [2]	Grant-in-Lieu[2]	Property Tax Grant Program[3]	Mobile Equipment	Utility Funding	Insurance Funding
Aklavik	-	-	24,000	-	-	-
Behchoko	-	-	75,000	-	-	-
Colville Lake	-	-	-	6,000	190,000	25,000
Deline	-	-	21,000	-	-	-
Dettah	-	-	5,000	8,000	49,000	7,000
Enterprise	-	-	17,000	-	-	-
Fort Good Hope	-	-	19,000	-	-	-
Fort Liard	-	-	29,000	-	-	-
Fort McPherson	-	-	47,000	-	-	-
Fort Providence	-	-	34,000	-	-	-
Fort Resolution	-	-	26,000	-	-	-
Fort Simpson	12,000	343,734	-	-	-	-
Fort Smith	85,000	705,565	-	-	-	-
Gameti	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hay River	129,000	576,696	-	-	-	-
Hay River Reserve	-	-	-	47,000	44,000	32,000
Inuvik	34,000	1,763,806	-	-	-	-
Jean Marie River	-	-	-	34,000	120,000	52,000
Kakisa	-	-	-	27,000	33,000	20,000
Lutselk'e	-	-	15,000	42,000	104,000	56,000
Nahanni Butte	-	-	-	36,000	139,000	39,000
Norman Wells	-	54,048	-	-	-	-
Paulatuk	-	-	6,000	-	-	-
Sachs Harbour	-	-	8,000	-	-	-
Trout Lake	-	-	-	45,000	22,000	22,000
Tsiigehtchic	-	-	12,000	-	-	-
Tuktoyaktuk	-	-	76,000	-	-	-
Tulita	-	-	26,000	-	-	-
Ulukhaktok	-	-	19,000	-	-	-
Wekweeti	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whati	-	-	16,000	-	-	-
Wrigley	-	-	-	29,000	149,000	47,000
Yellowknife	178,000	3,518,318	-	-	-	-
Total	**438,000**	**6,962,000**	**475,000**	**274,000**	**850,000**	**300,000**

Notes

(1) All funding is subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

(2) Budgeted amount; actual amounts will be invoiced from the eligible community governments.

(3) Budgeted amount based on historic experience; actual amounts provided in 2014-15 may be different depending on property tax payment activity of community residents.

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New Programs, Services and Initiatives

Federal Infrastructure Programs

As part of the New Building Canada Plan, the renewed Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) provides predictable long-term, stable funding for Canadian municipalities to help build and revitalize their local public infrastructure while creating jobs and long term prosperity. This program includes the permanent Gas Tax Fund, a new Provincial Territorial Infrastructure Component and a Small Communities Fund as well as numerous other components of major infrastructure initiatives.

The Federal Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) signed a renewed ten year (2014-2024) Gas Tax Administrative Agreement in May 2014 that provides $15 million annually to the GNWT over the first five years of the agreement.

Community governments are able to use the renewed GTF towards a wide range of projects, providing them with more flexibility in the types of projects they are able to fund. More specifically, Gas Tax funds can be spent on environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure including:

- public transit, wastewater infrastructure, drinking water, solid waste management, community energy systems, local roads and bridges, capacity building, highways, local and regional airports, short-line rail, short-sea shipping, disaster mitigation, broadband and connectivity, brownfield redevelopment, culture, tourism, sport, and recreation
- Negotiations on the New Building Canada Plan, in particular the Small Communities Fund component are ongoing. It is anticipated that a final agreement will be signed in the fall and that MACA will begin receiving applications for projects under the Fund soon after.

Community Funding Formula Review

All community governments receive their funding based on a formula that was developed in cooperation with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) and community governments. This funding formula is based on independent, objective factors that ensure funding is fair, but responsive to changing community needs.

Over the past year, MACA met with the funding formula advisory groups four times (January, February, April and August 2014), to review the funding formulas included in the Operations & Maintenance Funding Policy, the Water and Sewer Services Funding Policy, the Community Public Infrastructure Funding Policy and the Gas Tax allocation. Through this review, challenges faced by community governments were examined with a view to amending the formulas to better meet community government needs.

MACA is looking forward to receiving the final recommendations and working towards developing implementation options for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Non-Government Organization Stabilization Fund

In 2015-2016, the administration of the Non-Government Organization (NGO) Stabilization fund will transfer from the Department of the Executive to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). This fund has two objectives; the first is to provide short-term support to NGOs for governance, management, organizational development and extraordinary operational expenses. The second objective is to provide special funding to help NGOs who deliver critical GNWT funded programs and services to NWT residents to stabilize or develop their capacity to manage programs and services.

The transfer of this funding program to MACA will complement, enhance and improve MACA's existing menu of programs available to support volunteer development across the NWT.

Updates to Existing Programs, Services and Initiatives

Accountability Framework

Since the implementation of the New Deal for NWT Community Governments in 2007, community governments have been in control of their own infrastructure priorities. Building on the ideas and intentions of the New Deal, MACA worked with the NWTAC and LGANT to develop the Accountability Framework. The Framework emphasizes and reinforces the goals of the New Deal initiative, and supports the Assembly's goal of a strong north built on partnerships.

The Accountability Framework focuses on 12 key indicators deemed to be critical to community government success. Using these key indicators, MACA will work with community governments to communicate areas of success or challenge and seek to support communities in areas where challenges are identified.

As part of the Accountability Framework, MACA recognizes that the information collecting and reporting demands on community governments are significant. It is important that wherever possible, reporting required to meet obligations with other agreements (i.e. Gas Tax Agreement and Building Canada Plan Agreement) is streamlined with MACA's requirements for information and reporting. The Framework takes steps to reduce redundancies in the reporting requirements expected of communities.

MACA has hired Assistant Regional Superintendents in all regions who are responsible for supporting community governments in the implementation of the Accountability Framework. MACA, in cooperation with community governments, has completed the first benchmarking report to assess community government performance in the 12 key areas identified in the Framework.

The benchmark report was completed in the spring of 2014, and preliminary results were presented at the 2014 NWTAC Annual General Meeting. The report indicated there is a need for additional support in the areas of strategic planning, asset management, human resources planning, and an increased support for community fire protection.

The Framework is also being supported by the department through the development of an on-going communications plan, intended to ensure that the dialogue between community governments and the department is open and clear.

Highway Emergency Alerting Protocol

The Public Safety Division is leading a project involving the Departments of Transportation, Justice, Health and Social Services, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to update the Highway Emergency Alerting Protocol (HEAP). This work is being done to ensure effective deployment and coordination of first responders and the availability of relevant safety information for visitors and residents.

Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue

MACA is leading an interdepartmental advisory committee, made up of representatives from the Departments of Justice, Transportation, and Health and Social Services. This committee has been tasked with developing a strategy to support the delivery of ground ambulance and highway rescue services in the NWT. The strategy will inform a review of the current ground ambulance and highway rescue funding program to ensure

that GNWT policy objectives are clear and meet the needs of community governments in delivering ground ambulance and highway rescue services in and around their communities.

Public Service Capacity Initiative

The Public Service Capacity for Local Governments Initiative is a collaborative effort between MACA and Human Resources, the NWTAC and LGANT. The initiative involves a series of programs and services that will help to address challenges concerning the recruitment and retention of key senior administrative staff at the local government level.

Advancing Local Government Administrator Program (ALGAP)

The Advancing Local Government Administrator Program (ALGAP) is the flagship program of the Public Service Capacity Initiative and was launched at the annual general meeting of the NWTAC in May 2010. Through ALGAP, community governments can apply for up to two years of funding to support either a trainee or mentor for their senior administrator position, depending on the current needs of the local government.

ALGAP has an annual budget of $500,000 and provides assistance within the following three categories of support.

Investing Locally (Category One): This category includes local governments who do not have a Local Government Administrator (LGA) on staff. A local trainee is identified to receive training and support from an experienced administrator. The administrator is hired to provide both support to the trainee and to carry out the operational responsibilities of the LGA. To support retention, the trainee is expected to fill the LGA role for a minimum of two years of service upon successfully completing the program.

Succession Planning (Category Two): This category allows a local government whose LGA is within two years of retirement or departing for other reasons to train a successor. The LGA acts as a mentor to a trainee while performing his/her LGA duties. To support retention, the trainee is expected, upon successful completion, to succeed the outgoing LGA for a minimum of two years.

Skill Builders (Category Three): This category allows a community's LGA who is interested and in need of training and development, opportunities to access funding to improve the professional skills the LGA position he/she already holds.

The council of a local government must support any application for ALGAP funding by motion. Other conditions for successful applications are: a contribution agreement must be signed, a candidate must be identified and an agreed upon, approved training plan must be in place.

To date, there have been 21 community governments who have participated in and benefitted from this program.

In 2015-2016, MACA will implement the creation of a Master Trainer position to better support participants and ensure competency in key operational areas is achieved.

Other Programs

Other programs of the Public Service Capacity Initiative include the Good Governance Workshop Series offering training for elected leaders; human resources contracted services; national job postings; and a new website with complete program information at www.33strong.com. Other components of the initiative are still under development; these include a mentorship program, community self-assessment tools, and a "pool of professionals" program.

For more information about the Public Service Capacity for Local Governments Initiative, visit www.33strong.ca.

Policy and Legislation

Civil Emergency Measures Act

The Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA) is old legislation that puts an emphasis on dealing with emergencies of a purely local nature. The statute does not provide sufficient authority for GNWT emergency plans dealing with pandemics, national and international security issues, wildfire or climate-related emergencies.

A discussion paper was released in spring 2014 on the proposed changes and MACA has consulted with stakeholders to address concerns with the Act. These consultations have led to a number of proposed amendments to the legislation. These efforts will coincide with an update to the NWT Emergency Plan that will occur in 2015-2016. MACA plans to move forward with a Legislative Proposal to introduce these amendments during the 17th Legislative Assembly.

Fire Prevention Act

The Fire Prevention Act was initially passed in the mid-1970s and has never been thoroughly reviewed. This is important legislation that relates to a number of public safety issues so a review of the Act is being undertaken. The review will be guided by a working group made up of representatives from partner organizations, technical experts, and departmental staff. As the working group completes their review, they will work to clarify the regulatory regime and offences, ensure that investigation mechanisms comply with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and update penalties.

The department is undertaking further inter-jurisdictional analysis and will solicit public input on proposed changes to the Act in winter 2015 with a legislative proposal ready for consideration in summer 2015.

Municipal Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Legislation

Currently, community governments do not have clear rules regarding privacy and access to information. MACA is consulting stakeholders to determine whether the Access to Information Privacy and Protection Act (ATIPP) might be applied to community governments in the NWT.

The Municipal Access and Privacy Working Group was formed and will begin consultations with stakeholders to develop recommendations about how best to move forward with the development and implementation of privacy and access to information legislation for community governments. The working group is composed of representatives of MACA, the Department of Justice, the NWTAC and LGANT.

A discussion paper was circulated in fall 2014 for input on the recommendations made from community governments. The Municipal Access and Privacy working group will draft a report and recommendations for moving this initiative forward. It is expected that this report will be completed during the life of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

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